

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 SAN JO 03039 222316Z

67

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAB-01

JUSE-00 SEC-01 SCA-01 /059 W  
----- 027665

R 222233Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 882  
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA  
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA  
AMEMBASSY PANAMA  
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR  
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SAN JOSE 3039

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR PGOV PN CS

SUBJ: ODUBER REMARKS ON VESCO AND INTER-AMERICAN ISSUES

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: ON JULY 10, PRESIDENT  
ODUBER GAVE A PRESS CONFERENCE FOR THE MEMBERS OF  
THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS IN SAN JOSE FOR THE OAS CONFERENCE.  
(THE PRESS WAS INVITED TO JOIN THE PRESIDENT ON ONE OF  
HIS REGULAR SUNDAY VISITS TO RURAL AREAS OF COSTA RICA.) ISSUES  
RAISED INCLUDED VESCO, THE BANANA COMPANIES, SELA, AND THE PANAMA  
CANAL. END SUMMARY.

2. IN RESPONSE TO A "NEW YORK TIMES" CORRESPONDENT'S  
QUESTION ABOUT VESCO, PRESIDENT ODUBER (REPORTEDLY  
ANSWERING "SHARPLY") SAID THAT VESCO IS A SMALL  
PROBLEM IN COSTA RICA, THAT POVERTY AND DEVELOPMENT  
ARE MUCH LARGER. HE REPORTEDLY STATED THAT COSTA  
RICA HAD RECEIVED MANY AMERICANS PURSUED BY COURTS AND  
THAT THESE PEOPLE HAD INVESTED IN COSTA RICA AND  
GIVEN EMPLOYMENT TO COSTA RICANS. HE REPORTEDLY ALSO  
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 SAN JO 03039 222316Z

SAID "THE DOOR IS OPEN TO EXTRADITION", THAT "THEY CAN

TAKE HIM WHENEVER THEY FEEL LIKE, AS LONG AS IT'S DONE WITHIN COSTA RICAN LAW." PLN-FIGUERES NEWS-PAPER EXCELSIOR QUOTED ODUBER AS SAYING "NO MATTER HOW BIG THE US IS, IT STILL MUST COMPLY WITH COSTA RICAN LAW IN ORDER TO EXTRADITE ANYONE." (THE PAPERS ALSO REPORTED THAT THE NEW YORK TIMES CORRESPONDENT HAD PREFACED HIS QUESTION ABOUT VESCO BY SAYING THAT AT PRESENT COSTA RICA IS KNOWN NOT FOR BANANAS, COFFEE, OR DEMOCRATIC TRADITIONS, BUT FOR VESCO.)

3. SEVERAL REPORTERS ASKED ODUBER ABOUT THE BANANA SITUATION IN COSTA RICA. WHILE STATING STRONGLY THAT HE WAS AGAINST ANY BRIBERY, ODUBER DID NOT EXPRESS ANY DESIRES TO EXPROPRIATE THE LARGE INTERNATIONAL BANANA COMPANIES. HE STATED THAT HE PREFERRED TO SEE THE COMPANIES WELL REGULATED INSTEAD OF RUN BY THE STATE, ADDING, REPORTEDLY, THAT IT WAS PREFERABLE (FOR COSTA RICA) TO MANAGE THE MARKETING AND TRANSPORTATION OF THE FRUIT INSTEAD OF THE PRODUCTION. HE SAID THAT PANAMA'S SOLUTION (NATIONALIZING UNITED BRANDS) WAS NOT TO HIS LIKING FOR COSTA RICA.

4. ODUBER DESCRIBED SELA AS A "POLITICAL ARM THAT WILL ORGANIZE ITSELF ECONOMICALLY," BUT SAID IT WOULD NOT BE ANTI-ANYTHING, ONLY PRO-LATIN AMERICA."

5. IN ANSWER TO SEVERAL QUESTIONS ON THE POSSIBILITY OF VIOLENCE ON THE PANAMA CANAL ISSUE, ODUBER REPORTEDLY REPLIED, "PANAMA ORDERS, COSTA RICA COMPLIES....WHAT TORRIJOS TELLS US, WE WILL DO". WHEN QUESTIONING ON THE POSSIBILITY OF CONFRONTATION BETWEEN THE US AND PANAMA CONTINUED, ODUBER COMMENTED THAT PRESIDENT FORD IS VERY INTERESTED IN CONTINUING THE CANAL NEGOTIATIONS.

6. COMMENT. ALTHOUGH THIS PRESS CONFERENCE DID NOT PROVIDE ANY NEW INFORMATION ON COSTA RICAN POSITIONS, ODUBER'S RESPONSES ON VESCO AND ON THE PANAMA CANAL ARE OF INTEREST. HIS REACTION TO THE VESCO QUESTION, INCLUDING THE DIG AT THE US APPEARS DEFENSIVE, IF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 SAN JO 03039 222316Z

NOT PROTECTIVE, AND THE IRRITATION OF THE PRESIDENT OF COSTA RICA OVER CONTINUED US INTEREST (MEDIA AND OTHER) IN VESCO. ON THE CANAL ISSUE, ODUBER'S WORDS OF SUPPORT FOR TORRIJOS WERE THE STRONGEST YET ON PUBLIC RECORD. TODMAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS CONFERENCES, BANANAS, MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS, INTERNATIONAL CANALS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 22 JUL 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975SANJO03039  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750253-0590  
**From:** SAN JOSE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750733/aaaabdp.tel  
**Line Count:** 112  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 05 SEP 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <05 SEP 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <25 NOV 2003 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ODUBER REMARKS ON VESCO AND INTER-AMERICAN ISSUES  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PGOV, PN, CS, PQ, US, SELA, (ODUBER QUIROS, DANIEL), (VESCO, ROBERT)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006